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DIRECTORATE OF
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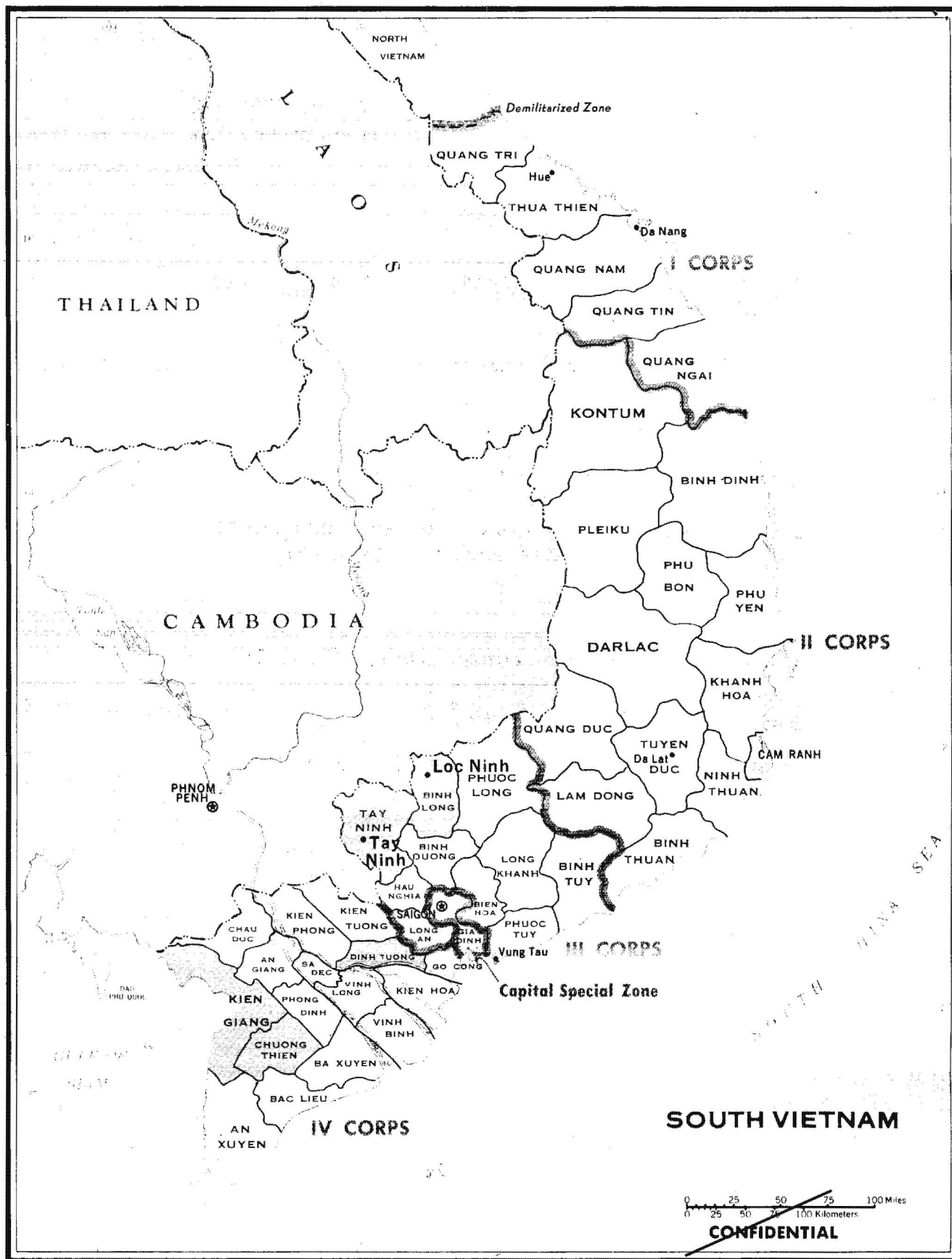
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*South Vietnam: More sympathy strikes appear imminent unless the government acts quickly to break the impasse.

A spokesman for the Vietnamese Confederation of Labor announced on 15 January that affiliated unions had been given a go-ahead for new walkouts today and that some categories of workers had already gone on strike. There are, however, some indications that the government may agree to release the six labor leaders arrested on 11 January. This could pave the way for settlement of the strikes.

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There are indications [redacted]

[redacted] that Communist forces are preparing more attacks in III Corps.

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The present disposition of the North Vietnamese 7th Division headquarters and two of its subordinate regiments, along with the recent arrival of the North Vietnamese 88th Regiment in southern Binh Long Province, suggest a possible enemy move against Tay Ninh city.

Major attacks thus far in the Communist winter-spring campaign in III Corps have come at approximately one-month intervals, beginning with Loc Ninh

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in late October. If the pattern holds, the next major assault could occur just prior to, or just after, Tet, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year holiday in late January. Such an attack would not only maintain the momentum of the enemy's winter-spring campaign, but would also reduce allied pressure on the base area of the Central Office for South Vietnam, the highest Viet Cong military headquarters.

Recently captured Viet Cong equipment reveals that enemy forces in the Mekong Delta are being armed with more modern and powerful weapons.

On 4 January 55 120-mm. mortar rounds were captured in Dinh Tuong Province, the first evidence that this heavy weapon is being introduced into the delta. In December, allied forces in Chuong Thien and Kien Giang provinces seized three Chinese Communist models of the Soviet 7.62-mm. AK-47, a modern, highly effective assault rifle. The three had been manufactured in the third quarter of 1967 in Manchuria, over 2,000 miles to the north.

North Vietnamese Army units in South Vietnam and certain Viet Cong main force battalions have been armed with the AK-47 type rifle for some time. The recently captured rifles [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] indicate that an increasing percentage of Viet Cong forces in the delta are now being armed with this modern automatic weapon. [REDACTED]

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